

OVER FIFTY ADDITIONS OF BIRDS TO THE SOMALIA LIST INCLUDING TWO
HYBRIDS, TOGETHER WITH NOTES FROM ETHIOPIA AND KENYA

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Somalia is one of the lesser, if not the least, ornithologically well known countries in Africa. The maps in Hall & Moreau (1970) and Snow (1978) show the large gaps in the country for the distribution of many species of birds which might be expected, and it is not surprising, therefore, that many previously unrecorded species have now been found. The two main works covering the country are Archer & Godman (1937, 1961) for the north (ex-British Somaliland), and Moltoni & Ruscone (1940-1944) for the south (ex-Italian Somaliland). In spite of these comprehensive treatises, Baird (1979) was able to add 28 species not recorded by Archer & Godman from the north, and in a few days in May 1979 I found four more not included in either publication; clearly there is scope for much more basic distribution survey work.

Although a number of collecting expeditions passed through the north of the country they were mainly *en route* to Ethiopia, and Archer & Godman's information is actually largely restricted to a rather small part of ex-British Somaliland. From the south Moltoni & Ruscone, for the greater part, only refer to selected localities from which birds had been collected. Most of the rather sparse literature on Somalia refers to collected birds, and there are remarkably few data based on field observations, especially compared with Kenya, and even Ethiopia.

The first check-list for the birds of Somalia has been completed (Ash & Miskell 1983), and one of the objects of the present paper is to substantiate species in the check-list for which there are no earlier published records. It is referred to throughout the present paper as 'the List'.

Some of the observations recorded below have been made in the course of fieldwork connected with investigations into Red-billed *Quelea quelea quelea*. At times I have been accompanied by other observers, including Dr R.L. Bruggers, Dr C.C.H. Elliott, J. Haslam, J.E. Miskell, A.A. Murshid, and Dr P. Ward. In particular, on several long survey trips, I was accompanied by AAM to the Juba River on 2-14 October 1978, to northwest Somalia by AAM and JEM 27 April to 25 May 1979, to south Somalia by JEM 13 September to 8 October 1979, to the lower Shebelle and Juba River by JEM 18-29 February 1980, and to northeast Somalia by JEM 15 April to 16 May 1980. Otherwise most observations were confined to an area within about 100 km of Mogadishu. The period covered is from my arrival in Somalia on 13 August 1978 until December 1981, except for absences of about one month in November/December 1979, for most of August to November 1980, for six weeks in August/September 1981, and for several other shorter periods.

Of the 52 birds now considered, 24 are Palaearctic migrants, 16 are Afro-tropical species, three belong to one or other or possibly both of these categories, four are Antarctic or from far southern seas, three are from tropical seas, and two are hybrids. Of particular interest are: a wreck of Dove Prions *Pachyptila d. desolata*, a Kerguelen Petrel *Pterodroma brevirostris*, four Red-necked Stints *Calidris ruficollis*, a Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*, Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea*, and a Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Fifteen of the species records are supported by specimens deposited in the Smithsonian Institution and British Museum.

Order and nomenclature follow that of the List.

Dove Prion *Pachyptila desolata desolata*

The occurrence of this species along the coast of Somalia in August 1979 provides the first records for Somalia, which is far to the north of its normal range, and may be the first to be found north of the equator. A total of c. 12 birds was involved, of which four were found dead, in the period 12-23 August 1979. Because of the geographical site of this 'wreck' and the difficulties experienced in identification, in spite of having Slater (1971) and Tuck & Heinzel (1978) for reference, each bird is recorded here. Only the complete specimen could definitely be attributed to this species (see below), and the others can only be assumed to be the same.

The first bird was a complete dead one found on the previous high tide-line on a beach at 1.58N, 45.14E near Gezira at 12 km southwest of Mogadishu, at 17:00 on 12 August 1979. The upper and lower mandibles were dark blue-black, except for a black mid-dorsal ridge. The measurements of the wing as 190 mm, bill 30 mm, bill width 16 mm, and bill width:length ratio at 1.9 (using Slater's (1971) method), agreed with *P. salvini* based on these four parameters cited by him. However, it also agreed with *P. desolata* on all measurements except bill width, and in addition lacked the mandibular lamellae which he states are present in *salvini*, but absent in *desolata*. Tuck & Heinzel extend the bill width of *desolata* to 15 mm, but their figure for bill length at 38 mm (surely an error) and bill width:length ratio at 2.5 - 3.0 is at complete variance with Slater. In fact, neither work enabled me to identify this bird with certainty.

On 15 August, parts of two dead prions were found on another beach about 1 km southwest of the first site: a) two wings with some body feathers and the tail; wing-lengths were 181 and 185 mm and tail 89 mm. b) a tail and one leg attached, to which some flesh adhered indicating that the bird had died recently. Tail 87 mm, tarsus 32 mm.

On 17 August four prions flew south at Hal Hambo, of which two were close inshore. Through a mounted telescope the distinctive tail and wing patterns could be seen well, but their erratic flight was the most outstanding characteristic, being unlike any other seabird I know: rapid, but suddenly stopping and turning or twisting and diving down or sideways, and occasionally zig-zagging.

On 22 August from a headland 3 km southwest of Gezira one bird flew north close inshore, followed later in the afternoon by one more to the north and two to the south, but much further out to sea. On 23 August the remains of a bird consisting of both wings, the sternum and pelvis and both legs were found on a beach at Mallable. Wing-lengths 189 and 192 mm, tarsi 33 and 33.5 mm.

Thus, assuming that all the sight observations referred to different birds, the 12 birds involved occurred along 73 km of coastline. During the intervening days searches were made along many kilometres of this stretch of shore-line, and the fact that three were found in one kilometre near Gezira, where four of the live birds were seen, suggests that this was the main focus of the wreck. Generally any dead bird washed ashore in Somalia is soon devoured by ghost crabs *Ocype* sp., so that possibly many other individuals were involved.

Of the six species of *Pachyptila* recognized, *desolata* breeds in the sub-antarctic zone, in the Antarctic Peninsular, South Georgia, Kerguelen, Heard, Macquarie and Auckland Islands, and ranges north in the southern oceans as far as 35S (Tuck & Heinzel 1978).

Later, together with Dr G.E. Watson, I was able to compare the Somalia material with specimens in the Smithsonian Institution, but we were still unable to identify them positively. Fortunately soon afterwards Dr C. Jouanin kindly examined the specimens with Watson and diagnosed them as examples of the Kerguelen nominate race (which was not represented in the Smithsonian

collection). The Registration Numbers of the four specimens are 555603-5 and 506069.

Kerguelen Petrel *Pterodroma brevirostris*

The wings and body of a bird without a head or legs were found, after having been partly eaten by a scavenger, on a beach at Mallable on 20 September 1978. I confirmed its identification with Dr Storrs Olson as *P. brevirostris* from a wing and a part-wing (lengths 244 and 247 mm) at the Smithsonian Institution, where it is deposited (Registration Number 582473). This is a remarkable occurrence of vagrancy for a species occurring between about 40 and 60S in the South Atlantic and south Indian Oceans, and would appear to be the first record from anywhere in Africa.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

I have spent many puzzling hours looking at shearwaters at various points along the coast of Somalia. After much helpful correspondence with Dr W.R.P. Bourne, a perusal of the literature, and examination of skins, I now claim with reasonable confidence that one species of dark shearwater is *Puffinus pacificus*. As this has not been recorded previously from Somalia's inshore waters, I list all the records, and add some field notes which may help in its identification elsewhere.

1. Between Mait and Mait Island, in the Gulf of Aden, three were seen on 20 May 1979.
2. One flew north on 16 April 1980 42 km north of Adale.
3. About 40 were seen in Hafun Bay, off Dante, 27-29 April 1980.
4. At Gezira one flew north on 7 June 1980 and one flew south there on 15 July 1980.
5. In 1981 in the Gezira/Mogadishu area 12 were seen on 11 days: on 3, 6, 7, 11, 18 and 19 April, 4 and 5 May and 18 and 27 November.

Description: there was variation from bird to bird; general colour brown, sometimes looking sooty-brown and almost black, but at other times appearing as 'Bonxie' (*Catharacta skua*) brown. Size large, much larger than a Noddy *Anous stolidus*, and often not looking much like a shearwater at all, due to curved wings, and more time spent in flapping than in gliding flight. Notes on one bird indicated a two-tone effect on the upper wings, another showed a pale brown line across the upper surface of the wings at the edge of the wing coverts. All the other birds appeared uniformly coloured above and below, except for one which had paler and rather yellowish-brown underparts. The legs were difficult to see, even at close range: one bird's legs were described as "not black", another as "dull mustard", and a third as "pale" (and this also had a pale bill). None had a heavy pale bill; one watched on the sea through a telescope had a slender darkish bill, not black, but either grey or blue, with probably a darker tip, and it was shorter than the head. One with a pale bill, but definitely not heavy, also had pale legs. All birds had a rather long-tailed appearance, but on only two occasions did they look wedge-shaped, seen when feeding birds banked suddenly. Tails were slightly rounded at the end and almost parallel-sided in flight. The most noticeable feature in flight was their curved wings, with the highest point, at the carpal joint, being above the level of the back.

Habits: their flight generally was heavy and rather laboured, and certainly not 'graceful', with much flapping flight and relatively little gliding. At Hafun they spent much time sitting on the sea, when one was once seen to pick an object off the surface. They often came close inshore, even over breaking waves on the shore itself. One bird sitting on the sea amongst breaking waves merely jumped over each one as it approached without opening its wings and landed on the water on the other side. Occasionally as birds came close in-

shore over breaking waves, they would slow down, heading into the wind and paddle their feet along the surface in the manner of storm-petrels.

Tuck & Heinzel (1978) show the distribution of this species as extending throughout the Indian Ocean, but there are no certain records from Kenya (Britton 1980), and it is unknown from the Ethiopian Red Sea coast. Other Procelariidae seen off the Somalia coast in 1979-1981 include Persian Gulf Shearwaters *Puffinus lherminieri persicus* (identification supported by a specimen in thousands off northeast Somalia in April and May, and a few other *lherminieri* in the Mogadishu area in March-August and November; Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax*, several off Mait in the Gulf of Aden in May, and off Gezira in July in three years.

To indicate the variety of shearwaters and petrels occurring along the Somalia coast, five or six other species have been seen in addition to those listed above. Some of these have been seen several times, but they have not been identified; details are as follows:

1. Large species, very easy flapping and shearing flight, snowy white below including flanks (wing tips not discernible); grey-brown above, but not uniform, being flecked or mottled with whitish. Seen as follows: Gezira, 5 June and 15 July 1980; Mogadishu, 16 July 1980; all single birds flying south. Gezira, 25 October 1980, three. Possibly Cory's or White-faced Shearwaters *Calonectris diomedea* or *leucomelas*.

2. Large all-dark birds with wing-span greater than the Common Noddy *Anous stolidus*; powerful flight with much shearing, often rising high above the sea. Seen as follows: Gezira, singles flew south on 17 and 24 May 1980, and flying north on 13 July 1980; 14 flew south singly on four days, 6 May to 20 June 1981. Possibly Great-winged Petrel, Reunion Petrel or Trinidade Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*, *P. atterima* or *P. arminjoniana*.

3. Smaller than 2. above, size of Common Noddy or smaller; all dark. Seen as follows: Hafun, c. 10, 27 April 1979; Gezira, one flew north, 15 July 1980; Mogadishu, one flew south, 16 July 1980; Gezira, two on 31 March and one on 1 July 1981 flew south. Possibly a dark *Pterodroma*.

4. Larger than Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, dark above and white below, rather heavy flaps interspersed with short glides close to the surface of the sea. Seen as follows: Mallable, one feeding, 10 November 1978; Gezira, singles flew south on 6 August 1980 and 28 March 1981. They reminded me of Barau's Petrel *Pterodroma baraui*, but were too distant for identification.

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

I have two specimens and one sight record of this species from Somalia. The first was a recently dead bird, already partly eaten by crabs, on the new tide line at Gezira on 31 May 1979. Its red feet enabled it to be identified immediately as this species, an identification that I was able to confirm at the Smithsonian Institution (Registration Number 555606).

The second record was provided by a skeleton found on sand dunes just above high water mark at Hal Hambo on 10 October 1979. It was identified at the Smithsonian Institution by Dr Storrs Olson (Registration Number 555607).

On 19 November 1981 an intermediate phase bird was watched feeding with terns off Gezira. It was pale brown above with dark wing tips and near white rump; very dark underwings; white belly, and remainder of underparts a paler brown than the mantle.

There are only two previous records for this species from African coastal waters, both in Kenya (Britton 1980).

Greater Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Curiously there are no previous certain records for this species in Somalia. A reference in Oustalet (1882) is queried by Moltoni (1936) as "Somalia sett. italiana?" Three coastal localities in Archer & Godman (1937), Saad Din, Saba Wanak and Somalia coast (the last possibly referring to Oustalet's record), must remain in doubt owing to possible confusion with, and the more likely occurrence of, Socotran Cormorants *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis* at these localities. In 1978-1979 the species was found breeding in two localities in southern Somalia where it is locally common but sporadic.

At Genale in 1978 I saw c. 10 on 21 August, c.100 at a communal riverside roost on 2 October, and c.50 breeding pairs on 9 November. - most of these were building in trees, but a few were incubating. At 13km south of the equator on the Gelib to Kismayu road a few birds were on nests on 6 October 1978. In 1979 there were one to four birds at Dannow on 20 April, 1 July and 26 October, one at 14km northeast of Gelib on 14 September, and 110 on a lakeshore (Rad-idi) at 13km south of Dujiuma on 2 October. In 1980 there are six records of one to nine birds in January, February and August at Dannow and Far Sarei along the lower Shebelle river. Possibly Greater Cormorants are only irregular breeding visitors to southern Somalia when large tracts of riverine land are inundated following the big rains, for I have no more records after August 1980.

The distribution map in Snow (1978) shows the whole of the Horn of Africa east of the rift valley devoid of records of this species except for my two isolated records along the Ethiopian Webi Shebelle: one near Mustahil on 11 September 1971 and, two days later, 20 at Callafo - close to the time when the species breeds in Somalia. The same map shows the species absent from Kenya north of the Tana River.

Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*

There is not a single record for this species for the whole of the Horn of Africa north of the equator and east of the rift valley, although to the west and further south of these limits it is well known. Two adults with immaculate slate-coloured upperparts and heavily streaked underparts were watched on 25 May 1979, and presumably the same two again on 28th, on flooded land at 9 km south of Jiohar. They were disturbed by the roadside and flew up on to exposed perches on *Balanites* bushes only 15 m away, where one bird was watched as it called with an apparently unrecorded whistling note reminiscent of a Rosy-patched Shrike *Rhodophoneus cruentus*. Following this observation 30 more birds, both immatures and adults, were seen on dates between 21 August and 26 October at Afgoi, Balad, Jiohar, 10 and 33 km south of Kolbio, Dannow, Kurtonwarey, and 21 km north of Ras Kiamboni, so that the species is apparently quite common in southern Somalia, and may be an isolated population.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

There are no certain previous records of Purple Herons in Somalia, but nowadays it is not uncommon. Heuglin (1869-1874) records it from the Somalia coast, but Moltoni (1936) queries this - perhaps because Heuglin attributed some stretches of coast (notably Djibouti) to Somalia that no longer fall within its present-day boundaries. Archer & Godman (1937) refer to a bird, possibly this species, at Sabawanak. I have records for 74 birds between 4 October 1978 and 20 November 1981, and possibly most of these were Palae-arctic migrants. There is no evidence that African birds breed in Somalia, but two birds on 1 July suggest that they may. Most were seen at Kurtonwarey, 10+ on 8 October 1981, and at Dannow, another very suitable breeding site with large *Typha* beds, where the maximum numbers were eight on 4 December 1978,

nine on 26 October 1979, and 12, apparently all adults, on 13 August 1980. Other sites, at which there were one to three birds, included Dhaay Tubako, Ionte, Gelib, Jiohar, Gezira and Audegle; and one which was very likely to have been a Palaearctic migrant was on top of a palm tree at dawn at Iskushuban in north Somalia on 30 April 1980.

The species is fairly common and widespread in Ethiopia west of, and within, the rift valley, but I have only three records from east of this line: one near Harar on 7 and 18 November 1969, and six near Mustahil on the Webi Shebelle, not far from the Somalia border, on 11 September 1971. It is widespread in Kenya (Britton 1980).

Madagascar Squacco Heron *Ardeola idae*

This is not an unexpected species in Somalia for it is now established as a fairly common, albeit probably frequently overlooked, non-breeding visitor to Kenya (Britton 1980), where I have seen up to 19 in one place. In non-breeding plumage they may be difficult to separate from Squacco Herons *Ardeola ralloides*, if alone, but their larger size combined with much heavier bill and broader streaking on the head and neck should distinguish most individuals. When seen alongside each other in the field there is no difficulty in separation. I saw two at close range resting in an acacia in flooded land at 12 km south of Jiohar on 28 May 1979 and another in an irrigation channel at Libsoma on 21 August 1979. *A. ralloides* has only been recorded previously on seven occasions in Somalia (Erlanger 1904-1907, Patrizi 1935, Moltoni 1936, Baird 1979), in the period 1901-1958, but nowadays the species is common and widespread: I have over 130 records during 1978 to 1981 in all months except June, between Ras Kiamboni in the south and Hargeisa in the north.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

There is only one previous occurrence of this species in the whole of the Horn of Africa (Snow 1978), 25 birds which I saw between Mustahil and Callafo along the Webi Shebelle, in Ethiopia, on 11 September 1971. Twelve further records, this time in Somalia, indicate that the bird is not unusual in this area. There were two at Farkero on 8 November 1978 feeding in flooded grassland with their characteristic 'umbrella' technique. On 20 April 1979, two to five birds (two, two and one seen in the space of ½ h) flew over marshland at Dannow and there were a further two there on 28 December 1979; there were five at Far Sarei on 10 January 1980 (Dr C.C.H. Elliott and J.E. Miskell); nine at Far Sarei on 20 February 1980, and on 22 February 1980, four, 18 and two at Lake Gudan, Billakh and Dhaay Tubako respectively. Of particular interest are records on the north coast of single birds at El Dario lagoon, Habo, with 13 African Reef Herons *Egretta gularis*, and flying over mangroves at Alula, both on 2 May 1980. There were two at Jiohar on 30 October 1981 (J.E. Miskell). Lastly, a single bird was seen on many occasions consorting with African Reef Herons along the shore in the Mogadishu/Gezira area between 19 October and 18 November 1981.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Except for the Garganey *Anas querquedula*, remarkably few Palaearctic ducks have been recorded in Somalia, and I am unable to trace any for the present species in the literature. I saw a female at Galbooy with a flock of 50 Egyptian Geese *Alopochen aegyptiacus* on 7 December 1978. In the winter of 1979/1980 a large influx occurred in parts of the Webi Shebelle and Juba valleys. There were c. 90 on irrigated rice at Libsoma on 20 December, c. 20 on 28 December and four on 16 January. At Dannow on 28 December there were at least 600, and still 400+ on 3 and 4 February and c. 100 on 19 February. There were only two to four on three days at Libsoma in January, but elsewhere rather more, with 73

at Dhaay Tubako on 22 February, three at Shonde on 26 February and 30 at Lake Radidi on 27 February. There is a specimen in the Nairobi Museum collected by M.E.W. North at Eil on 22 December 1944. R.G. Allan informs me that he saw singles at Lake Sinadogo on 27 October 1971 and 6 February 1972. There are large areas of suitable habitat in the Webi Shebelle and Juba river valleys, so that from their scarcity in most years one must conclude that only small numbers of Palaearctic waterfowl visit the country. It is of interest that the large influx coincided with local conditions which were drier than usual.

Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

It is surprising that there are no previous records of this species from Somalia, for nowadays the species is obviously fairly common and of regular occurrence. The first one I saw was at Mallable on 3 November 1978 hunting over beach-head *Atriplex*, following which 51 others have been seen in all months on dates between 25 August and 1 April, at localities which include Dannow, Hawaala Buray, Libsoma, Far Sarei, Dhaay Tubako, Gezira, sites between Afgoi and Shalambot and at 35 km south of Gelib. I found it to be common and widespread in Ethiopia on dates between 22 September and 9 May, and I also had two records in June, and it is a reasonably common winter visitor to Kenya (Britton 1980).

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

Three harriers seen together with an example of the Eurasian Marsh Harrier on 2 March 1979 at Dannow can only have been this species. They were flying about over dense *Typha* beds in typical harrier fashion, but were obviously smaller than the *aeruginosus*, and in general appeared dark all over without any white or buff on the rump, head or shoulders, and one at least showed palish bases to the underwing primaries. There was one at the same place on 16 March 1979, and another at Far Sarei on 20 February 1980. Presumably the non-migratory *ranivorus* will be found eventually breeding in southern Somalia, but at present these new records constitute an interesting extension of range beyond their nearest sites in Kenya (Snow 1978), and it is still not known from Ethiopia.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

I watched two sub-adults, probably both females, at point-blank range on 30 December 1978 at Hawaala Buray. They were sitting in an acacia tree in a large *Quelea quelea* colony and were apparently gorged on the huge numbers of newly fledged *Quelea quelea*. Detailed notes were taken, of which the following excerpts rule out all other species with which they might have been confused (both *Accipiter* and *Melierax* spp.): yellow eyes and legs; finely barred on upper breast and strongly so below this with broad dark bars; dark Vs on thighs; no chestnut on underparts; no white on upper tail. The heavily barred underparts suggested Levant Sparrowhawk *A. brevipes*, but the yellow iris rules out this species. Backhurst, Britton & Mann (1973) could find only five records from Kenya for *A. nisus*. In Ethiopia, Urban & Brown (1971) state that it is "uncommon to rare throughout", although I have been able to trace only five records, all in the Rift Valley (Issel 1872, Salvadori 1884, Erlanger 1904, Beals 1966). In addition, I saw one at Aseita on 11 and 12 December 1975, and found the dried remains (specimen now in the Smithsonian Institution, Registration Number 569282) of what was probably the same bird, an adult female, at the same place on 17 February 1976.

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

I collected a specimen of a male *B. b. vulpinus* found freshly dead following a spraying operation on 10 January 1979 at Hawaala Buray, where it was

presumably overwintering. It is a large bird with wing 402mm and is now in the Smithsonian Institution (Registration Number 571252). It is odd that there are no other records from Somalia for it is a common overwintering and passage migrant in Ethiopia, although mostly in the rift valley and in the region further west (pers. obs.). Moreau (1972) comments that "their apparent absence from Somaliland may be because that country is too arid." It is also a widespread passage migrant and winter visitor to Kenya, but again mainly in the west (Britton 1980). Dr G.E. Watson kindly confirmed the subspecific identification.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

Booted Eagles are fairly common in southern Somalia, so it is surprising that it has not been recorded previously. I saw the first, a pale phase adult, on 7 November 1978 at Moccooidumis, and subsequently have seen at least 46 more, of which 22 were pale phase adults. All localities are in the south and include Bardid, Bur Heybo, Shalambot, Hawaala Buray, Afgoi, Uarmahan, six sites between Afgoi and Shalambot, 5 and 13 km south of Jiohar, Hal Hambo, Dannow, Lake Gudan, Fanole, Lake Radidi, Uar Uorba, Libsoma and Mogadishu. Extreme dates are 12 October and 20 April, with birds being seen in every month between. Pale phase adults are unmistakable, even though they bear a superficial resemblance to adult Egyptian Vultures *Neophron percnopterus*, but the identification of dark birds is more difficult owing to their possible confusion with other small dark African eagles. Most of the dark birds, possibly immatures, have shown a pale brownish diagonal band on the upper wing along the trailing edge of the wing coverts together with a similarly coloured crescentic rump patch. A few of these dark birds also have almost clear white shoulder patches at the base of the wing - a character which is given for Ayres' Hawk Eagle *H. dubius* by Brown & Amadon (1968), but is clearly not diagnostic for that species (vide Porter et al. 1978). This species is commoner overwintering in eastern Africa than the earlier records indicate. Moreau (1972) states: "Southwards through eastern Africa it has been listed all the way to the Eastern Cape but in none of the territories is it represented by more than two records or localities." From 1969 to 1977 I saw 16 birds in Ethiopia in all months between 23 October and 13 March, but with the inclusion of brown birds, not positively identified as *pennatus*, this total would be boosted considerably. It has become recognized as a common visitor to Kenya only since 1971, prior to which few had been identified (EANHS, OSC 1978, Britton 1980). This bird is generally regarded as being a woodland species, and it is of course a tree-nester, but in its winter quarters in Somalia it is typically a bird of open country, even at times over coastal dunes and lagoons. Half the above-mentioned Ethiopian records, and all those from Somalia, were seen in mostly very arid open country with but few trees, and I have evidence for migration over the extremely arid Danakil desert. Only one of them was in a truly forested area.

Cuckoo Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides*

This species is probably fairly common in the forested region of southern Somalia, and may be expected to be so in similar habitat across the border in Kenya. I had close views of birds in flight and at rest on the Kenya/Somalia border track at 20, 32, 38 and 40 km south of Kolbio on, respectively, 18, 19, 24 and 25 September 1979. Outside this area there was another on 1 October 1979 at Marerei on the lower Juba. The first two birds were in circling display flights above the forest in the early mornings, when their clear calls puuuuuuu - pu - pu - pu..... carried far. Probably they breed there, as well as at Marerei where the habitat is still suitable, although considerably reduced.

Cuckoo Hawks occur nearby to the south in coastal Kenya (*A. c. verreauxi*), but to the west there is a wide gap in their range before they are met with again in southwestern Ethiopia. These westerly birds are also *verreauxi*, confirmed by specimens I collected, and not nominate as suspected earlier by Urban & Brown (1971).

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

An immature bird at Afgoi was first seen on 21 January 1980 flying rapidly amongst a group of large trees round a pool, apparently mobbing a Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* perched in one of them. In several brief views its pale blue-grey upperparts and paler rump were seen. There was no red on the head or neck, and its dark eye and moustachial streak contrasted with its whitish cheeks; the centre of the underparts was not seen, but the pale reddish brown (or bright buff) flanks were conspicuous. It was present again at the same place on 26 January and 7 and 17 February.

I am familiar with this species elsewhere in Africa and as a breeding bird in western Ethiopia, but am unable to trace any previous record in Somalia, or even in Ethiopia east of the rift valley (*contra* Brown & Amadon 1968). In Kenya it is known as near to southern Somalia as the Tana River (Snow 1978, Britton 1980).

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Although recognized as a migrant this species is not recorded within the Somali arid zone by Snow (1978). One, with poorly developed knobs, was present at Dannow, not much above sea-level, on 16 March 1979. There was another at Libsoma on 25 and 28 December 1979. These are probably vagrants in Somalia, although J.E. Miskell informs me that the bird is frequently present on pans at Wajir in the arid zone of northeast Kenya. It is a very common bird in Ethiopia, where it is associated with highland waters up to 3300 m, and in numbers up to 10 000 together (on lakes near Harar, pers. obs.).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A single bird at Libsoma on 25 December 1979, and two at the same place on 28th, were feeding in a pool resulting from an irrigated rice crop. Later there were single birds at Dannow on 4 and 19 February and at 38 km south of Afgoi on 15 March 1980, and two more at Dannow on 6 March 1981. Somalia apparently lies to the east of the main wintering area for this species in Africa, although it occurs regularly in Kenya (Britton 1980). I found it overwintering quite commonly in Ethiopia, usually singly, but often in small parties, and once 20 together, mostly at 1800 to 3300 m in the rift valley and western highlands, between 8 July and 16 May. I only once saw a Spotted Redshank east of the rift valley, at Callafo in the Ogaden, on 3 November 1975.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

I saw one at ranges down to less than 3 m in a freshwater ditch close to the shore near Gezira on 9 December 1978. Its small size, lack of both call note and zigzag flight, and short bill, as well as other features, clearly identified it as this species. This is obviously a rare bird in eastern Africa, where in Kenya it is noted by Britton (1980) as being scarce, and all records are from the central highlands. Urban & Brown (1971) list it as "uncommon to rare" throughout Ethiopia, and I am able to trace only seven records up to that date (Guichard 1950, Cheesman & Sclater 1935, Ogilvie-Grant & Reid 1901, Schuz 1968, Moltoni & Ruscone 1940-1944), and a further seven since, including three of my own; all the Ethiopian records are from an area north of a line through Lake Tana, Langano and Harar.

Knot Calidris canutus

Backhurst *et al.* (1973) consider the Knot to be a rare vagrant to the East African coast, from which there are three records from Kenya and one from Tanzania (Taylor 1978). Heuglin's (1859) records from Ethiopia and Tadjura (stated to be in Somalia, but actually in present-day Djibouti) are queried by the author himself and are not generally recognized. I saw one in non-breeding plumage on 27 June 1979 at the lagoon at Gezira: a dumpy short-legged bird, between Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* and Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* in size (both present), short greenish legs, black bill shorter than the head, obvious spotting or speckling on the flanks, whitish rump scalloped all over with dark grey. After an interval during which no Knots were seen, another occurred on 3 August 1979 at the same locality. A detailed description indicated that it could not be the same bird as seen earlier. A single Knot was again present on 24 and 25 August 1979. In all cases the possibility of the birds being Great Knots *C. tenuirostris* was excluded.

Red-necked Stint Calidris ruficollis

I have four spring records of this species from Somalia. The first, on 20 April 1979 at Dannow, was in full or nearly full breeding plumage, but was only seen briefly in poor light and could not be found again. The next two were found the following spring in northern Somalia: the first on 2 May 1980 was with a Little Stint *C. minuta* and four Sanderlings *C. alba* in a mangrove lagoon at 1.5 km east of Alula. It was seen again the next day and again on returning through the area on 5 May, and detailed notes were taken to compare later with skins. Unfortunately we were unable to attempt to catch it as we were under police detention at the time.

A brief description of the bird is as follows: whole of sides of head to top of eye level, ear coverts, throat and upper breast a dull chestnut brown, as in the Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, looking redder at a distance, but having almost a purplish bloom at 10 m range; top of head with very fine clear streaks on a pale ground; pale supercilium extending down behind the eye, with very fine streaks between the eye and the bill, and the trace of a paler streak on the side of the crown above the supercilium; mantle streaked buff and brownish grey with the wing coverts marked similarly; a fringe of streaky spots forming a gorget below the red throat, with a few larger spots on the upper flanks; rest of underparts immaculate white; legs black; bill black, shorter than head; central tail feathers black, the remainder greyish-white, paler than those of *C. minuta*, but not as white as the underparts; a whitish wing bar broader towards the primaries; silent. On 8 May 1980 further west at Garas Wadi near the shore another was seen with a Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*. It was very similar to the Alula bird except that the red colouration was confined to the lores and ear coverts. Another on 16 May 1981 was present all afternoon with a flock of 27 Sanderlings on the beach at Gezira, and was similar to the Garas Wadi bird. The birds in near-complete breeding plumage were matched by skins in the Smithsonian Institution, but there were no skins of either *minuta* or *ruficollis* which matched the other two. However, since these observations I have looked closely at very many spring adults of both species in various intermediate stages of plumage between winter and summer, and am convinced about the correct identification of the Somalia birds.

It would seem that this species, normally overwintering in southeast Asia and beyond, probably also visits Africa regularly in small numbers, and quite likely also undertakes a transcontinental migration with other waders from South Africa (*vide* Dowsett 1980). It is interesting that Kenya's first two Red-necked Stints were first seen on the same date as the last bird in Somalia (Taylor 1981).

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

Recently, in discussing the distribution of *L. falcinellus*, I suggested (Ash 1978) that a midwinter concentration may be discovered in Somalia to account for the large numbers found on passage at Aden. I have examined much of the Somalia coast in 1978 to 1981, and only found two Broad-billed Sandpipers - adults still in part breeding plumage at Kisimayu on 10 October 1978, and at Gezira on 22 and 23 September 1981. It seems very unlikely that large numbers of this species will be found along this coast except possibly on suitable areas, worth investigation at the right time of the year, round Zeila in the north, where there are large areas of tidal flats similar to those at Assab and Djibouti, where this species is known to occur, and round Stamboul in the south where there are similar large areas.

The second bird was unusual in being very aggressive towards *Calidris* sandpipers (*minuta* and *ferruginea*), but it did not react to nearby *Charadrius* plovers (*hiaticula*, *marginatus* and *mongolus*). It fed by deep-probing to the full length of its beak in the wet sand, and also by rapidly picking off the surface.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Moreau (1972) shows the wintering area of *L. limosa* in Africa lying between 10 and 17N, from the Ethiopian rift valley westwards across the Sahel through Senegal. However, the species occurs commonly in Ethiopia to at least as far south as 7N (pers. obs.), and throughout Kenya (EANHS OSC 1978). In spite of this wide distribution there have been no records from Somalia until I saw one flying over seasonal marsh at Hawaala Buray on 4 January 1979, followed by two at Libsoma on 25 December 1979 and one on 21 January 1980. There were one to four at Dannow on 4 February, ten at Dhaay Tubako on 22 February 1980, and an unusual midsummer record of at least 18 near Uarmahan on 7 July 1981.

Catharacta spp.

I follow Devilliers (1977) in my recognition of these skuas, of which I have four records from Somalia. One of these is ascribed to the Brown Skua *C. skua loennbergi*, another to the South Polar Skua *C. maccormicki*, but the other two were unidentified. The two identified birds are discussed below, the others were as follows: one carrying a metal ring on its left leg was harrying immature Lesser Black-backed Gulls *Larus fuscus* over the beach at Hafun Bay on 27 April 1980; no plumage details were obtainable. A second very dark bird flying north on 4 May 1981 at Gezira, alighted on the sea for 5 min. Its uniform dark appearance and conspicuous golden 'mane' seen through a telescope suggested that it was *C. maccormicki*.

There are no previous records from Somalia for any *Catharacta* species and only very few from neighbouring countries: one from Ethiopia, two others from the Red Sea, and off the southern Arabian coast (Bailey 1966, Clapham 1964, Mann 1971, Morzer Bruyns & Voous 1961). There are two records from Kenya, one of which is identified as *C. antarctica madagascariensis* (= *loennbergi*) (Britton 1980).

South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki*

As I stopped by the shore at Hal Hambo on 29 May 1981, a 'Great' Skua arrived and circled the vehicle several times to within a metre of the ground. It then settled on the sea c. 100 m away where I was able to watch it through a telescope for 10 min. I was able to identify it as *C. maccormicki* for the following reasons: uniform dark brown without any blotches or golden colour; small slender blue bill with a black tip; the white wing patch was fairly obvious, but not extensive.

Brown Skua Catharacta skua loennbergi

I found a fresh dead bird being washed ashore on the incoming tide at Mallable on 1 June 1979. Parts of this bird were identified by Dr Storrs Olson at the Smithsonian Institution where its Registration Number is 555611.

Arctic Skua Stercorarius parasiticus

Arctic Skuas apparently are not uncommon spring and autumn passage migrants off the eastern coast of Somalia, but as the species is so poorly known in this region I list all my records: Gezira, 27 October 1978, one adult pale phase with complete central tail feathers, was disturbed from sand dunes. It was unable to fly well as apparently some primaries were stuck together, possibly by oil. Mallable, 11 November 1978, a dark bird flying south offshore. Gezira, 20 November 1978, at least four dark birds visible at one time harrying huge flocks of feeding terns. Gezira, 25 April 1979, an adult pale phase flying north close inshore. Hal Hambo, 17 August 1979, a juvenile skua, almost certainly this species. Gezira, 6 September 1979, a dark bird far out (species uncertain, but either *parasiticus* or *longicaudus*). Hafun, 27 April 1980, five pale phase adults with well developed pointed central tail feathers were seen in the bay in the evening; soon after sunset they circled high overhead, rose to a very great height and then departed due east overland across Ras Hafun. Early the following morning three pale phase adults passed northwards over the sea. Tohen, just south of Cape Guardafui, 4 May 1980, one pale adult flew north. Garas Wadi, on the north coast, 8 May 1980, a pale adult far out over the sea was either *parasiticus* or *pomarinus*. In the Gezira area in 1981, on 25 April, two pale adults persistently pursued a small wader high into the sky, but failed to catch it; on 1 May, a pale adult flew north, followed by two more on 5 May; on 14 November a dark bird judged to be *parasiticus* flew south, followed by another flying with a dark *pomarinus* on the next day.

Of the 25 birds noted above, 16 occurred 25 April - 8 May and seven on 11 to 20 November.

Backhurst (1971) records a spring adult from Kenya, and there are a few other probable records (Britton 1980). There are also several from Ethiopia (Ash pers. obs., C.S. Clapham pers. obs., Smith 1953), but there is no previous indication of a regular passage.

Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus

There are two sight records in spring 1980 from localities far apart along the east coast. The first was a pale sub-adult with short twisted central tail feathers, pursuing terns off Gezira in the south on 13 April 1980. A fully adult pale bird with a complete tail was watched through a telescope in flight and on the sea at Hafun in the north on 27 April 1980. Three dark birds flying south at Gezira on 10 and 15 November and 9 December 1981 were judged to be *pomarinus* rather than the smaller species; one was accompanied by a dark *parasiticus* with which it could be compared.

The species is previously unrecorded from Somalia, but there are four from Kenya (Britton 1980) and one from Ethiopia (Dahlac Island, 5 March 1952). This bird is included in Smith (1953), but omitted from Smith (1957), but confirmed by him *in litt.* to me).

Great Black-headed Gull Larus ichthyaetus

With a recent increase of considerable numbers of this species in Ethiopia (Ash & Ashford 1977) together with new sightings in Kenya (Ash & Ashford 1977, Pearson 1977, etc.), it is not surprising that it should now be recorded from Somalia. On 27 February 1980 there was a fully adult bird in complete breeding plumage on the shore of Lake Radidi, close to the Juba River. In the

intense heat of the early afternoon it permitted approach to within 100 m as it stood on dry mud with its bill wide open. Its large size, almost that of nearby Egyptian Geese *Alopochen aegyptiacus*, with black head, yellow bill with black and red bands at the tip, and in flight pale grey wings with black tips on the outer of the otherwise all white primaries, together with other characters, were diagnostic for this species.

On 18 January 1981, there was a sub-adult on the shore at Hal Hambo with eight adult and immature *Larus fuscus* and an immature Herring Gull *L. argentatus* feeding on fish remains. It was about one-fifth larger than the Herring Gull and otherwise differed in the following ways: yellowish-brown bill with distal quarter dark and a trace of red at the tip; trace of a white orbital ring; dark lores and nape; trace of a white collar; grey upperparts with a few dark feathers; dark terminal bands to a white tail; primaries black; pale area in mid wing, including the tertials, very worn and bleached; the secondaries showed a thin white trailing edge and a dark subterminal bar.

It is quite usual for birds in African winter quarters to be in breeding plumage early in the year. I have some notes on this point from Ethiopia where the development of breeding plumage progressed as follows: 12 January, 63 adults (3 per cent in breeding plumage); 3 February, 72 adults (28 per cent); 22 February, 71 adults (many); 10 March, 25 adults (most).

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

A bird in first-summer plumage was with a flock of c. 500 terns on the beach at Hal Hambo on 8 May 1981. I watched it for ½h through a telescope (up to x60) at a range of 100 m. It was in excellent condition, aggressive towards any terns which came near it on the ground, and eventually flew strongly out to sea. Although presenting no problems in identification, I have not seen a field description of a Sabine's Gull in this intermediate plumage, so a fairly detailed description is warranted.

It was a small gull similar in size to some Lesser Crested Terns *Sterna bengalensis*, but intermediate between others and Common Tern *S. hirundo*. In flight: diagnostic wing pattern of three triangles, black outer primaries, white inner primaries and secondaries, and dark grey coverts. Head: a white forehead extending back over the crown to behind the eye, behind this the hood was reduced to an area of greyish-brown mottling, behind which there was a darker half-collar on the nape. Upperparts: mantle a shade paler than the wings, which were about the same dark grey as the local race of the Crested Tern *S. bergii velox*. At rest the visible primaries were black and only two of them showed white tips. Tail all white and slightly forked. The whole of the underparts were white except for a greyish area on the sides of the breast near the carpal joint. A 'neat' black bill, without yellow tip or obvious gonys, and it was shorter than the head. The legs were a nondescript putty or dull flesh colour, definitely not black or brown.

Normally wintering in the South Pacific and South Atlantic Oceans, extending as far south as South Africa (Cramp & Simmons 1982), this appears to be the first known occurrence of the species in the Indian Ocean north of Natal (Cramp & Simmons *op. cit.*). It was presumably a bird returning north up the 'wrong' side of Africa, and was very late to be so far south.

Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris*

A full account of the large numbers, up to 1000/d, seen along the Somalia coast in 1978 and 1979, is published (Ash 1980b). In 1980 this species was again common in the Mogadishu area, in smaller numbers (maximum c. 100) than in 1979, from 23 May to at least 14 August. In addition, there was an ailing bird at Hafun Bay on 27 April, and possibly up to 200 on the next two days off Dante, in northern Somalia. In 1981 they were present in the Mogadishu area in small

numbers up to 13/d, 16 May to 2 August, and then on 17 November 118 flew south and there were a further 100 the next day.

There are no previous records for the country, but it would appear that it is a regular visitor from May to August in varying numbers, with others in April, September and October.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

There were three Whiskered Terns with 15 White-winged Black Terns *C. leucopterus* and a Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* at Dannow on 2 March 1979. The three Whiskered Terns were all coming into breeding plumage and had clearly demarcated black crowns; one had a few scattered black feathers on the underparts and another showed enough black to indicate, by contrast, the white 'whiskers'. They were slightly larger than the *C. leucopterus*, but much smaller than the *S. hirundo*.

There was another at the same locality on 18 January 1980. In 1981 there was an adult in near-complete breeding plumage near Uarmahan on 7 July, and three in various stages of breeding plumage at Kurtonwarey on 22 July. Probably these birds were of the Palaearctic nominate race, but with the known breeding of the Afrotropical race *delalandii* in Kenya, the possibility of this race cannot be ruled out and the status of the nominate form in East Africa is not clear. Whiskered Terns are well known in Kenya (Britton 1980) and Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971, Ash pers. obs.).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

An adult in almost complete breeding plumage was present all afternoon on 10 August 1980 on a salt-water lagoon at Gezira. Although continually harassed by the other terns (several hundred Common and White-cheeked *Sterna repressa*, 50 Roseate Terns *S. dougallii* and a few Lesser Crested Terns *S. bengalensis*) it always remained with them, both at rest and in flight in the flock. Its lores were jet black; the crown (extending well below and behind the eye), primaries, bill and legs were black; white lower belly; rest of body greyish-black; tail almost square; mottled with whitish on forehead and throat; leading edge of wing below near white; bill always held above the horizontal; about two-thirds the size of *S. repressa*.

This tern is an extremely rare bird in East Africa: there are only three records for Kenya (Britton 1980, Pearson & Lewis 1980) and, although stated to be common to uncommon throughout Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971) I only saw one in the eight years 1969 to 1977, at Bahadu on 8 May 1971, and have been able to trace only six other records (Finsch 1872, Cheesman & Sclater 1935, Salvadori 1907-1908, Clapham pers. obs., Hay 1969, Antinori & Salvadori 1873, Moltoni & Ruscone 1940-1944).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Over a period of about an hour on 23 May 1979 I watched a tern in flight and at rest round a large rain pool in a depression in arid thornbush at 6 km west of Og, 200 km from the sea, in northern Somalia. I was eventually convinced that it was an Arctic Tern, but as the first of this species in eastern Africa should occur inland it was collected for confirmation. It proved to be an adult female with undeveloped ovaries in full breeding plumage, and its identification was confirmed at the Smithsonian Institution by Dr G.E. Watson (Registration Number 571255). The wing-length was 273 mm, tarsus 18 mm. The main characters distinguishing it in the field from a Common Tern *S. hirundo*, of which an adult in breeding plumage had been seen a few days earlier over a dam lake at Hargeisa, were its all red bill, greyish white underparts not contrasting with its upperparts, dark tips to the trailing edge of the under primaries, and a white streak below the eye between the black crown and the

underparts.

In flight it occasionally associated with a single Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*, and there were also several other migrants present, a late female Garganey *Anas querquedula*, three Little Ringed Plovers *Charadrius dubius*, one Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*, two Wood Sandpipers *T. glareola*, one Green Sandpiper *T. ochropus*, 20 Little Stints *Calidris minuta*, one Temminck's Stint *C. temminckii*, six Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* and a late Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

Three days later, on 26 May, in southern Somalia there was another exactly similar Arctic Tern in a large flock of six other species of terns resting on the beach at Gezira. It was conspicuous among the others in being the only bird with a red bill. The only terns seen in this coastal area with red on their bills at this time of the year, are a few Common Terns, some Roseates *S. dougallii* in which the red is admixed with black although mostly they are black, and some White-cheeked Terns *S. repressa*, both adults and immatures, with reddish-black bills, although mostly they are also all black.

In April 1980 I began to suspect that there were large numbers of Arctic Terns in the Gezira area, and flocks of six and 15 terns flying over the beach at Gezira on 7 and 10 April were in full breeding plumage with all red bills, and were almost certainly this species. An adult on the shore at the same place on 12 April was indubitably this species. During this month a large overland nocturnal migration of terns was discovered in the Mogadishu area, and reasons for supposing that these may have been Arctic Terns are given in Ash (in prep.).

On 10 July 1980 an ailing (constantly jerking as if trying to defaecate, and fell over once: it was subsequently found to have its cloaca blocked with a small patch of oil) first summer 'portlandica' Arctic Tern was watched for a long time and identified clearly as this species. It was collected and its identification confirmed by Dr G.E. Watson at the Smithsonian Institution (Registration Number 571256).

In 1981 there were five more records, a first summer bird at Gezira on 16 May, an adult in full breeding plumage there on 28 May; a first summer bird at Mallable on 19 June (weight 76.9 g, wing 256 mm, tarsus 14 mm); a first summer bird at Gezira on 27 July, and an adult in winter plumage at Mallable on 21 October.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

This species is only recorded rarely in East Africa, and a previous record from Somalia in Moltoni (1936) is open to doubt. It refers to an account by Ninni (1932) of the species being extremely abundant at Hafun, and the crags being so white with them to appear as if covered with snow. This description can hardly refer to this species, although it does appear to be commoner at Hafun than anywhere else in Somalia.

I saw a total of 14 birds on dates between 24 March and 3 May, and two others singly on 7 January and 29 May: near Mallable, one on 24 March 1979; Sabawanak, two on 13 May 1979; Gezira, one on 7 January 1980; Badey, near Eil, one on 23 April 1980; Hafun, one on 27 and two on 28 and 29 April 1980; Hafun Bay, one on 29 April 1980; Alula and Habo, one at each locality on 2 May 1980; Tohen, one on 3 May 1980; Hal Hambo, one on 29 May 1981.

The spring records seem to indicate northward passage through the Indian Ocean, but the January date suggests an overwintering bird and the other at the end of May was possibly oversummering. However, all but three of the above records are from northern Somalia, which may indicate an overwintering population in that area.

African Skimmer Rynchops flavirostris

There was an adult in full breeding plumage on a salt-water lagoon at Gezira on 10, 11, 14 and 15 June 1980. One flew south over the sea only 2 km north of the lagoon on 30 June, which no doubt was the one which joined the bird at the lagoon, for there were two there on several of my visits, 10 July to 7 August. An unmistakable species, clearly identified as *R. flavirostris*. It is locally common in Kenya (Britton 1980) and Ethiopia (pers. obs.), but mainly in the west.

Ash's Lark *Mirafra ashi*

This distinctive new species has been described recently from specimens I collected near Uarsheik (Colston 1982).

Mosque Swallow *Hirundo senegalensis*

This is a not unexpected species in southern Somalia where woodland with tall trees exists, for it is found nearby in coastal Kenya and, rather further away, in southern Ethiopia. On 26 September 1979 at 3 km south of Badada a single bird appeared high up flying steadily from the north over open woodland, and was clearly identified by its large size, white underwing coverts, large areas of pale on the cheeks and chestnut underparts.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*

A single Banded Martin seen soon after sunrise at Far Sarei on 20 February 1980 was feeding low over open grassland close to the Shebelle River. Several hours later there were five together at the same place. They were identified as they flew close past by their conspicuously large size and slow heavy flight, prominent dark breast bands and square tails. Dr C.C.H. Elliott saw a Banded Martin a few weeks earlier, on 10 January 1980, at what proved to be the same locality.

The present observation is over 600 km away from the nearest site in Kenya and about 950 km from the nearest Ethiopian one (Hall & Moreau 1970). These authors indicate only one locality east of the Ethiopian rift valley - an area in which it is obviously rare, for in the period 1969 to 1977 I saw the species on only four occasions there. In the rift valley itself and to the west and north in the highlands it is common.

It seems probable that the Somalia birds are referable to the race *suahelica* rather than *erlangeri*.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

I have been unable to find any reference to Sand Martins in the Horn of Africa. In particular, there are no published records at all from the whole of Somalia, nor from the adjoining Ogaden area of Ethiopia. Moreau (1972) does not refer to the species east of a line through Lake Tana in Ethiopia and Kampala in Uganda. In my experience in Ethiopia it is a common to abundant bird in the rift valley and westwards, but is seldom seen east of the rift. In the Ogaden I have records of two single birds, and a flock of 200 at Callafo on the Webi Shebelle on 3 November 1975. Eastwards through Somalia it is apparently equally uncommon. I saw the first at Coriole on 3 December 1978, and then at least 50 with hundreds of Eurasian Swallows *Hirundo rustica* sitting on a roughly ploughed field at Farhana on 5 December 1978.

Following these observations further small numbers (1-10) were seen in several widely scattered localities in the south, including: 38 km south of Afgoi, 11 km northwest of Bur Acaba, Lugh, Jiohar, Libsoma and Far Sarei, on dates between 6 October and 16 April, and once a larger gathering of at least 60 birds at Lake Gudan on 22 February 1980. One on northward migration was flying low over the beach 25 km southwest of Adale on 16 April 1980.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* × Brown-necked Raven *C. ruficollis edithae* hybrids
In discussing the hybridization of Pied Crows and Brown-necked Ravens it is first of all necessary to summarize the existing knowledge concerning the distribution of the two species involved. *C. r. edithae* has a wide distribution throughout most of the country, but inexplicably is apparently absent from quite large areas (notably from west of the Juba River, and in the northeast coastal region, where in the eastern sector of the narrow coastal northern plain it is replaced by *C. albus*). *C. albus* has two distinct populations confined to narrow coastal belts, in the south from Mogadishu to south of Kisimayu, and in the north from Berbera to Cape Guardafui, and is rarely seen inland beyond 20-30 km from the coast. The southern population of *C. alba* overlaps that of *C. r. edithae*, but in the north it does so only in the western half of its range.

In the Mogadishu area, hybrids showing every graduation of plumage characteristics between the two species are fairly common, but seem to be confined to the immediate area of the town and occasionally up to 12 km to the northeast and southwest, and I have one record from further south at Brava on 3 October 1978. On several occasions I have seen a bird of each species consorting closely together as if paired, and twice an *albus* was seen associating closely with a hybrid, but unfortunately no clue was obtained about the pairing relative to the sex of the individuals. Although both species breed in the area, no mixed breeding pairs have been found, suggesting that the hybrids are true interspecific hybrids and therefore sterile (but see below). It is curious that these city hybrids have not been recorded previously; it seems likely that in the future they will be found in the western sector of the *C. albus* population in its northern range, and in the southern sector of its southern range.

These hybrids are more widely distributed in Ethiopia, due no doubt to the fact that the distributions of the two species overlap, albeit in a mainly narrow zone, almost throughout the length of the country from north to south. *C. albus* is mainly restricted to the west of the rift valley, but extends down the whole of the Red Sea coast to Assab, and also occurs in the Chercher and southeast highlands of Arussi and Bale. *C. r. edithae*, on the other hand, is mainly confined to the area east of the rift valley, with an extension through coastal Eritrea, and in the south to the Lake Turkana area, and with a few records in the highlands to the west of Addis Ababa. Hybridization occurs in this area of overlap, where it is analogous to the situation regarding the Carrion and Hooded Crows *Corvus corone corone* and *C. corone cornix* in the Palaearctic. Blair (1961) has summarized the situation in central Ethiopia, mainly from his own observations in Arussi, Bale and round Hara. In this last area hybrids are particularly numerous, and I once saw there a male *albus* (from its behaviour) displaying to a (presumed) female *edithae*. Blair recorded a male *edithae* paired with a female hybrid. Smith (1955) recorded hybrids at Thio in coastal Eritrea, and Kleinschmidt (1906) discusses hybrids in Ethiopia. There is no mention of hybrids in Kenya (Britton 1980).

Clearly the situation of hybridization between these two crow species has phylogenetic significance, and warrants further investigation to establish the true relationship of the *Corvus ruficollis/edithae/albus* complex.

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

There were many Lesser Swamp Warblers singing in the dense and extensive *Typha* beds on my first visit to Dannow on 8 November 1978. On subsequent visits 47 birds were netted and some specimens collected. The mean wing-length of 43 birds was 60.7 mm (range 57-64 mm), of which four males were 61-63 mm and one female 60 mm. Thus the mean wing-length of this population is actually below the shortest wing-length given by White (1960) for even the smallest race of

A. gracilirostris. It seems likely therefore that this population is sufficiently isolated to be differentiated from its nearest congeners, *A. g. leptorhyncha* of Kenya's eastern lowlands and northeast Ethiopia. I also measured 51 examples of *A. gracilirostris* from Bahadu, Danakil, in the Awash valley in Ethiopia, where a population of *A. g. leptorhyncha* exists of similar size to other populations of *leptorhyncha*, but possibly differs from them in colour (White *op. cit.*); the mean wing-length of these birds was 65.3 mm (range 59-70 mm).

Birds from Bahadu and Dannow are paler and smaller than other *leptorhyncha*. Dannow birds show much variation in the colour of the upperparts, from dull grey-brown through reddish-brown; Bahadu birds are redder and larger. Both populations are considered here as *leptorhyncha*, although probably both deserve new names. I began to think that the Dannow population might be discrete, for searches elsewhere in suitable habitat in Somalia failed to produce any until one was found in *Typha* at Lake Gudan on 22 February 1980. On a visit to Dannow on 13 August 1980 the area was being drained and the remaining few swamp warblers were singing in the last small patch of *Typha*.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

I saw one to three *Acrocephalus*, thought to be Marsh Warblers, in rather thick riverside scrub at Afgoi on 12 December 1978. Next day there was a similar bird in the same place, and it was eventually driven into a net. It proved to be this species with wing-length 67 mm and weight 11.9 g; the notch on the 2nd primary = 9.5 mm = 6th primary tip. As it was the first recorded from Somalia it was preserved. However, R.J. Dowsett (*in litt.* 30 June 1979) informs me that the specimen in the British Museum, identified as *A. scirpaceus* collected by Elliott (1897) at Las Durban on 8 May 1896 is, in fact, *palustris*. Archer & Godman (1961) do not refer to this bird, listed by Elliott as *A. streperus*, under either *palustris* or *scirpaceus*. Subsequently I found Marsh Warblers on spring passage in northern Somalia, where no doubt later they will be found to be regular and common, as follows: El Hamurre, 22 April 1980, one in acacia near a well had olive upperparts without any rufous, much whiter below than the Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida* accompanying it, pale brown legs, orange mouth, and none of the tail- or wing-flicking of *Hippolais*. Alula, 3 May 1980, one in mangroves and one netted nearby on 5 May 1980 (wing 66 mm, weight 16.5 g). Near Bosaso at an oasis round the hot springs at 11 km east of the town, 8 May 1980, six seen, of which three netted (wings: 68, 68, 69 mm; weights: 16.5, 14.9, 15.9 g respectively). El Dere, 16 May 1980, one watched at dawn in thornbush at point-blank range. The notch on the 2nd primary of the four netted birds equalled primaries 6/7, 7, 7/8, and 7/8.

Marsh Warblers are fairly common passage migrants in Ethiopia, mainly from mid August to the end of September, with a few widespread until 14 December. I only handled five birds in spring: an early one collected on Debre Mariam Island, Lake Tana, on 4 April 1977, and two each day on 21 and 22 April 1977 at Lake Koka in the rift valley. The weights of these five, in order of catching, were 11.5, 10.2, 14.6, 13.5 and 10.4 g - a wide range of variation and all lighter than the Somalia birds caught later in the spring. It is a spring passage migrant in small numbers in eastern Kenya in April, but is abundant in autumn (Britton 1980).

Incidentally, the only previous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* recorded from Somalia is one from Dolo (van Someren MS, where it is listed as *A. s. fuscus*), although - nowadays at any rate - it is not uncommon, overwintering and on passage (pers. obs.).

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

As I stepped ashore on Saad-al-Din Island in the Gulf of Aden of Zeila on 10 May 1979, I was immediately reminded of a landing in December 1972 on a similar

though smaller island in the Red Sea, Sceksaid, off Massawa where two species of *Acrocephalus* were in full song. On each island they were African Reed Warblers *A. baeticatus* and Clamorous Reed Warblers. A hastily erected net only caught one of the latter species in the narrow belt of mangroves at that point. A short distance away the mangroves were denser and wider, and in roughly 1 km of these I counted at least 20 singing *stentoreus* and two *baeticatus*.

Details of the collected specimen, now in the Smithsonian Institution (Registration Number 571273) are: wing 85 mm, weight 23.4 g, male with advanced testes of 7 mm. Wing formula: primaries 3 and 4 longest, 2nd = -4 mm (=5/6), 5th = -2 mm, 6th = -5 mm, 7th = -8.5 mm, 10th = -15 mm; secondaries = -15 mm; 2nd-4th primaries emarginated; notch on inner web of 2nd = 18 mm (= secondaries); 1st = 5 mm less than primary coverts. Tail 77 mm (16 mm between shortest and longest feathers). Bill length: 28 mm from gape, 26 mm from skull and 15.5 mm from distal end of nostrils. Tarsus 29 mm and dark pinkish grey. Iris dull brown. Soles pale greenish. Mouth bright orange red. Upper mandible dark grey, lower mandible with proximal half pinkish white and distal half grey. The song was a mixture of croaking frog-like notes interspersed with some sweeter ones.

There was also a large *Acrocephalus* with a croaking song in mangroves at Habo on 2 May 1980, but I could not see it well enough to decide whether it was *stentoreus* or a migrant Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus*.

The taxonomic status of the *A. stentoreus* in the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden area mangroves requires further investigation, although the populations would appear to be referable to *A. s. brunnescens*. The species is known from mangroves at Suakin, Sudan, where it was found at my instigation by G. Nikolaus (female in breeding condition in the Smithsonian Institution (Registration Number 570441), 10 March 1976, wing 78 mm, weight 21.0 g); Sceksaid Island, Massawa (see above), where an unsexed bird was collected for me by Brother E. Johnson on 7 January 1976, wing 85 mm; a male with very large testes collected by K.D. Smith at Zula, Eritrea, on 26 January 1952 (British Museum Registration Number 1952. 25.22); a male with very large testes collected on 10 February 1949 at 32 km south of Jizan, southwest Arabia (British Museum Registration Number 1950.8.4); a male from Assab, Eritrea, 29 January 1907 (Madarasz 1915); from Massawa in May, June and July (Heuglin 1877); from Eri in Sudan (Heuglin 1861), and again from Massawa in April 1870 (Antinori & Salvadori 1873). It is also recorded from the Dahlac Islands (Urban & Boswell 1969), and again from Assab (Kittenberger 1907) and Zula (Smith 1961).

Heuglin (1869) found birds breeding in June on the Eritrean coast and these have been ascribed to *A. s. stentoreus* by White (1960); but most of the others, including birds with developed gonads, and the Somalia specimen, appear to be *A. s. brunnescens*. As Smith (1961) suggests, there is probably a sedentary population occupying this area, which may well require a new name.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

I watched an Icterine Warbler closely for 5 min among the hundreds of migrants at Takoshe on 9 May 1979. It was in a small open acacia tree, and had a typical long pale *Hippolais* bill, uniform pale yellow underparts, distinct pale wing panel, and blue legs. Both Moreau (1972) and Backhurst *et al.* (1973) have speculated, using the meagre data available, on the possibility of this species using different passage routes in spring and autumn, and have arrived at opposite suggestions: Moreau's view is that Icterine Warblers may use a loop migration through East Africa in autumn and through the east of West Africa in spring; the others suggest that "It probably passes mainly west of our area [Kenya and Tanzania] on its way to and from winter quarters. .. it may well use a more easterly route on return passage..."

In Ethiopia, well north of the wintering area, Smith (1957) found them uncommon, in autumn only, in Eritrea from 2 to 19 September. Further south in the country I found only seven birds in 1969-1977, three in spring 8-14 April, and four in autumn 11-27 September. Although too few in number on which to base any firm conclusion, these records do not suggest a great difference between spring and autumn; nor do they indicate anything more substantial than a small passage at both seasons. My Ethiopian records are from the rift valley or to the east of it, including one in Danakil (Ash 1973).

Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*

I watched one well on 3 May 1980 in a small patch of acacia bush on the otherwise bare hills behind Cape Guardafui at 9 km east of Alula. At first glance from the vehicle I took it to be a possible Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*, but good views over the next 15 min and comparison with Upcher's Warblers *H. languida* enabled it to be identified as *H. olivetorum*. It was noticeably larger than *languida* and was judged to be about the same size as the many Rufous Bush Chats *Cercotrichas galactotes* present; its typical *Hippolais* bill and blue legs were conspicuous, as well as a pale wing panel, and it flicked its tail in the same manner as *languida*. The many other Palaearctic migrants in the same patch of bush, ten Upcher's Warblers, 35 Rufous Bush Chats, one Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, two Spotted Flycatchers *Muscicapa striata* and one Eurasian Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* suggested that there may be a substantial passage through this area.

The Olive-tree Warbler is an uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant in Kenya (Britton 1980), and there are only three occurrences in Ethiopia, all in Eritrea (Finsch 1872, Zedlitz 1911, Smith 1957).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Several *Phylloscopus* were seen feeding high in a group of large *Ficus* trees on the bank of the Webi Shebelle 10 km northeast of Afgoi, in February to April 1979. The first of these, on 11 February, was a Willow Warbler *P. trochilus*, a species previously unknown in Somalia except in the extreme north-west (Archer & Godman 1961). On 26 March there were three birds which I identified as one *trochilus* and two *sibilatrix*; on 28th there were one and three respectively; and on 2 April one *sibilatrix*. Three *sibilatrix* collected are deposited in the Smithsonian Institution (Registration Numbers 571319-571321), where I confirmed their identification.

In the following winter there were three *sibilatrix* in the same group of fig trees on 16 December 1979, and a single bird there on 5, 16 and 26 January 1980. Later, in 1981, I saw other Wood Warblers in the same site on 23 February (1) and 23 December (2), and two at Jiohar on 20 November.

The main point of interest about these birds is that they are so far to the east. Moreau (1972) states that most Wood Warblers overwinter in an area between 9N and the equator, and probably only between about 10W and 35E. Overwintering birds, or even passage birds, at around 45E and 2N are totally unexpected. That the species is rare in the area east of that delineated by Moreau is supported by the fact that there are only two known occurrences in Ethiopia (in November and May, Ash 1973, 1977) and only seven in Kenya (Backhurst et al. 1973, G.C. Backhurst pers. comm.).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

It is strange that the Garden Warbler has avoided detection and collection in Somalia for so long. On a brief visit to the north in May 1979 and 1980 I found four birds, which suggests that it is not uncommon on spring passage: Takoshe, 11 May 1979, one netted and ringed, wing 79 mm, weight 25.8 g (i.e. c. 8-9 g of fat); Bihendula, 14 May 1979, one feeding on ripe figs in a high

Ficus in this mountain oasis; Sheikh (at 11 km south), 14 May 1979, one in thornbush in a wadi; Moon, 11 May 1980, one with a male Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* in a *Ficus*. These individuals presumably formed part of an eastward extension of the large spring passage of fattened Garden Warblers which passes through the Danakil area of northeast Ethiopia in April and May (Ash pers. obs.).

Four-coloured Bush Shrike *Malaconotus quadricolor*

A very secretive species of which a suspected adult was glimpsed on 18 September 1979 at 38 km south of Kolbio in the Dibi Jilabe Forest by J.E. Miskell. The following day I saw an immature very well at a further 2 km south, and in this area an adult and an immature were netted and another immature seen on 24 September (Smithsonian Institution Registration Numbers 571307-8). It is a not uncommon bird of coastal East Africa, extending well inland in some areas, but previously known only to extend along the coast to as far north as Lamu (Britton 1980). Somalia specimens are identical to *M. q. nigricauda* from Kenya.

Eurasian Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

I watched a Eurasian Starling flying about in typical fashion - alternate flapping and gliding flight - over open bush at Hawaala Buray on 27 December 1978. It flew down to an adjoining marsh, alighted on some dead stalks, which it then sidled down to drink from some open water below. On approaching to 12 m I could see that it was in every way a typical Eurasian Starling, very alert and apparently healthy, in spotted winter plumage, with a dark bill and eye, bright pink-flesh legs and slightly crested nape feathers. There were flocks of local starlings in the vicinity, Superb and Fischer's Starlings *Spreo superbus* and *fischeri*, but it did not associate with them. After a few minutes it flew off to a bush in which many *Quelea quelea* were gathering prior to roosting, and could not be found again that evening or on subsequent days.

Apart from the introduced South African population, there would appear to be only one other occurrence of a Eurasian Starling in Africa south of the Sahara, a recovery of a ringed nominate bird at Dessie, Ethiopia (Jitschin 1938).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* × Somali Sparrow *P. castanopterus* hybrid
This interesting hybrid from Hal Hambo on 6-7 March 1980 is discussed in detail in Ash & Colston (1981).

Peters' Twinspot *Hypargos niveoguttatus*

This species was to be expected in southern Somalia for it is known nearby in coastal Kenya. It proved to be common along the Kenya/Somalia border track at 38 and 40 km south of Kolbio, in the Dibi Jilabe Forest. A male was caught on 18 September 1979, followed by 12 others of both sexes on 24th and 25th. The males are similar to Kenya specimens of the race *macrospilotus*, but are more orange-red on the breast and have larger white spots on the flanks and underparts (Smithsonian Institution Registration Numbers 571301-2). They may require a new name when material can be examined from the intervening area north of Lamu.

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APPENDIX GAZETTEER

Co-ordinates are in degrees and minutes

Adale, Som.	02.45N, 46.19E	Brava, Som.	01.06N, 44.03E
Addis Ababa, Eth.	09.02N, 38.45E	Bur Acaba, Som.	02.48N, 44.04E
Afgoi, Som.	02.08N, 45.08E	Bur Heybo, Som.	03.00N, 44.18E
Alula, Som.	11.58N, 50.15E	Callafo, Eth.	05.36N, 44.13E
Arussi, Eth. (Province)	08.00N, 39.00E	Chercher Highlands,	
Aseita, Eth.	11.33N, 41.26E	Eth.	09 N, 41.30E
Assab, Eth.	13.01N, 42.43E	Corirole, Som.	01.47N, 44.31E
Audegle, Som.	01.51N, 44.52E	Dahlak Is., Eth.	15.40N, 40.00E
Badada, Som.	01.02S, 41.29E	Danakil, Eth.	13 N 41 E
Bahadu, Eth.	10.05N, 40.37E	Dannow, Som.	01.44N, 44.32E
Balad, Som.	02.23N, 45.24E	Dante, Som.	10.26N, 51.16E
Bale, Eth.	06.30N, 39.30E	Debre Mariam Is., Eth.	13.56N, 39.22E
Berbera, Som.	10.26N, 45.02E	Dešsie, Eth.	11.11N, 39.38E
Berdid, Som.	01.53N, 44.44E	Dhaay Tubako, Som.	00.27N, 43.00E
Bihendula, Som.	10.11N, 45.08E	Dibi Jilabe Forest,	
Billakh, Som.	00.48N, 43.17E	Som.	01.26S, 41.27E
Bqasaso, Som.	11.17N, 49.10E	Djibouti, Djib.	11.35N, 43.09E

Dolo, Som./Eth.	04.10N, 42.06E	Mallable, Som.	02.12N, 45.37E
Dujima, Som.	01.15N, 42.34E	Manyo Farar, Som.	01.45N, 44.31E
Dusa Mareb, Som.	05.32N, 46.23E	Marerei, Som.	00.25N, 42.43E
Eil, Som.	07.59N, 49.49E	Massawa, Eth.	15.36N, 39.29E
El Dario, Som.	11.47N, 50.33E	Mocccoidumis, Som.	01.37N, 44.26E
El Dere, Som.	05.22N, 46.10E	Mogadishu, Som.	02.03N, 45.21E
El Hamurre, Som.	07.13N, 48.54E	Moon, Som.	11.01N, 48.26E
Fanolé, Som.	00.26N, 42.47E	Mustahil, Eth.	05.15N, 44.44E
Farhana, Som.	01.45N, 44.32E	Og (6 km west), Som.	08.47N, 46.32E
Farkero, Som.	01.47N, 44.36E	Ogaden, Eth.	07 N, 45 E
Far Sarei, Som.	01.01N, 43.22E	Radidi, Lake, Som.	01.16N, 42.34E
Galboy, Som.	02.27N, 44.51E	Ras Hafun, Som.	10.27N, 51.24E
Gelib, Som.	00.29N, 42.47E	Ras Kiamboni, Som.	01.38S, 41.36E
Genale, Som.	01.49N, 44.42E	Saad-al-Din Is., Som.	11.27N, 43.27E
Gezira, Som.	01.57N, 45.11E	Saad Din, Som.	11.27N, 43.27E
Guardafui, Cape, Som.	11.50N, 51.16E	Sabawanak, Som.	10.33N, 44.08E
Gudan, Lake, Som.	00.47N, 43.17E	Scek Said Is., Eth.	15.35N, 39.29E
Habo, Som.	11.47N, 50.32E	Shalambot, Som.	01.43N, 44.41E
Hafun, Som.	10.25N, 51.20E	Sheikh, Som.	09.56N, 45.12E
Hafun Bay, Som.	10.25N, 51.15E	Shonde, Som.	01.10N, 42.33E
Hal Hambo, Som.	01.54N, 45.05E	Shongolo Forest, Som.	00.47N, 42.38E
Harar, Eth.	09.19N, 42.08E	Sinadogo, Lake, Som.	05.22N, 46.21E
Hargeisa, Som.	09.32N, 44.03E	Sokoke Forest, Ken.	03.31S, 39.49E
Hawaala Buray, Som.	02.26N, 45.17E	Stamboul, Som.	00.50S, 42.07E
Ionte, Som.	00.07S, 42.33E	Suakin, Sudan	19.07N, 37.20E
Iskushuban, Som.	10.17N, 50.14E	Tadjura, Djib.	11.47N, 42.55E
Jiohar, Som.	02.47N, 45.31E	Takoshe, Som.	11.20N, 43.23E
Juba, River, Som.	00.15S, 42.37E	Tana, Lake, Eth.	12.00N, 37.20E
Kampala, Uganda	00.19N, 32.34E	Tana River, Ken.	02.33S, 40.31E
Kilifi, Ken.	03.38S, 39.51E	Thio, Eth.	14.42N, 40.53E
Kismayu, Som.	00.22S, 42.32E	Tohen, Som.	11.44N, 51.15E
Koka, Lake, Eth.	08.27N, 39.06E	Turkana, Lake, Eth./ Ken.	03.30N, 36.00E
Kolbio, Som.	01.08S, 41.13E	Uanle Uen, Som.	02.37N, 44.54E
Kurtonwarey, Som.	01.37N, 44.20E	Uarmahan, Som.	02.24N, 45.01E
Lamu, Ken.	02.17S, 40.55E	Uarscheik, Som.	02.18N, 45.47E
Langano, Lake, Eth.	07.35N, 38.45E	Uar Uorba, Som.	01.28N, 42.57E
Las Durban, Som.	c. 10.28N, 45.02E	Wajir, Ken.	01.45N, 40.04E
Lirpsoma, Som.	02.07N, 45.03E	Webi Shebelle, Som.	00.15N, 43.03E
Lugh, Som.	03.48N, 42.32E	Zeila, Som.	11.21N, 43.28E
Mait, Som.	10.58N, 47.04E	Zula, Eth.	15.25N, 39.40E
Mait Is., Som.	11.16N, 4-.15E		